



Season's greetings
to all our friends
around the world!

Inside

AGM tribute among the trees

Toc H Cymru is launched

Such a happy year: picture special

Back to the future with a radical Toc H

Page 3

Page 5

Page 6 and 7

Pages 10 and 11

The magazine of



TOC H

point
3

■ DECEMBER 2003

News in brief

Books at the bedside

For many people spending time in hospital can be just an unfortunate fact of life and many hospitals have charity-run libraries to help patients while away the time.

Hazel Grove Toc H, Cheshire, branch provides that valuable and welcome service for their local Stepping Hill Hospital. And they must be good at it – they've been doing it since 1931.

Branch secretary Edward Pym says: "We offer a choice of some 250 books to help in some small way to make a stay in hospital less tedious and perhaps more enjoyable. We're unashamedly seeking more volunteers, or new members, to run the service. While it's busy, it would be so much better if it were twice as busy!"

Hail a hero

Oatlands branch secretary Bob Wise has been hailed as an "unsung hero" for his caring community work in Harrogate.

Bob, a local Methodist lay preacher for 60 years, was nominated by his many friends in the area to receive a Community Award, an honour organised by Harrogate Council and the Harrogate Advertiser newspaper.

A nice cup of tea

Our cover shows Amy Follon, Ellie and Eve Dunwell, and Debbie Claxton enjoying a trip to Poperinge.

Send us your news

Point 3 Editor is Sue Coffey who can be contacted via Central Services or emailed at info@zymo.co.uk tel 01274 841402. The next deadline is 5th January 2004. The opinions expressed in this issue are not necessarily those of Toc H, and the Editor reserves the right to cut articles and letters.



Pumpkins and pyjamas: North Yorkshire Toc H Youth Members and friends enjoyed a weekend at Colsterdale when highlights included a day at the Lightwater Valley theme park with a firework spectacular followed by a Halloween pyjama party

We do like to be beside the London seaside

This summer's heatwave made the second edition of a book about the children's beach beside the Tower of London, the inspiration of Toc H founder Tubby Clayton, particularly interesting.

The beach is still remembered with great affection by many East Enders and was largely financed by Toc H benefactor Lord Wakefield, says author Rose Baillie, who records the beach's happy days in *The Tower of London Children's Beach*.

The tidal beach - created with tons of Essex sand over a curving 1,000-ft stretch of shingle and mud - gave pleasure to countless thousands of inner-city London children over the years. It opened in 1934 after a fundraising appeal designed to improve the Tower Hill area for poorer families generally: a safe set of steps was installed, beach guards laid on, and Thames ships sounded their sirens at the opening party where long tables were laid out on the shore with buns, chocolate, and lemonade for the children.

Tubby had used all his contacts and influence to create the beach and begin improving the surrounding area - the Prince of Wales was the appeal's patron and Lord Wakefield its president.

Donations even came from a Royal film premiere.

The beach, which in 1935 alone had at least 100,000 visitors, closed during the war and a flying bomb destroyed the steps. It re-opened after the war, but pollution fears, rival leisure attractions, and the growing costs of providing supervision meant it eventually closed in 1971.

The Tower of London Children's Beach is available from Rose Baillie, price £3.50 including postage and packing, at 15 Escuan Lodge, Aberdeen Park, London N5 2AP. She can also be contacted at info@colas.org.uk and would like to hear from anyone with knowledge of the beach, particularly after the war, when records are patchy.

It is still possible to get onto the beach occasionally. Ms Baillie is Chair of COLAS - The City of London Archaeological Society - which works to promote personal involvement with archaeology and historical research. COLAS, a registered charity, played a major part in allowing the public onto the beach for National Archaeology Weekends in 1998 and 2000, and she hopes this can happen again. Anyone interested in COLAS can see details at www.colas.org.uk

Paying tribute among the trees

Toc H held its 2003 Annual General Meeting on a sunny day at the National Memorial Arboretum, a 150-acre stretch of reclaimed quarry site near Lichfield.

The Arboretum, newly-planted with thousands of young trees, pays tribute to all those who have fought for peace. There are areas dedicated to the armed services, forces of foreign countries, the families of those who have died in war, vital support services, and the Millennium Chapel of Peace and Forgiveness, among others.

Toc H has a prominent memorial garden at the Arboretum, with the wooden carving of a Toc H lamp eight times larger than the normal size as its central feature. The Archdeacon of Craven, the Venerable Malcolm Grundy, led a dedication service for the garden before the formal part of the AGM.

The 2003 AGM:

Agreed the minutes of the 2002 AGM held under the revised rules of governance for Toc H.

Accepted the new Business Plan which is designed to move the core values of Toc H into a modern context.

Heard from Chief Executive Geoff Smith of the past year's achievements and a summary of the plan for the year ahead including the drive to establish



The peaceful scene at the Arboretum during the service of dedication for the Toc H memorial, seen above

the Participation project, a 'virtual' volunteer community, and Toc H Chances Consulting which will offer Toc H expertise to the wider charitable sector.

Featured a workshop for volunteer co-ordinators organised by John Dunwell, VOL:tag Director. A full copy of the Business Plan and Annual Accounts are available from Toc H Central Services.

Geoff Smith concluded: "In the 21st Century the connection Toc H can make with wider social concerns might be expressed as 'co-operation between communities,' co-operation

that recognises and celebrates diversity in a global world.

"Toc H in the UK will seek to renew its international relationships with the Toc H family around the world."

Plans are underway for the celebration of Toc H's 90th year. A service echoing the West Midlands Rally 'act of praise and purpose' of 1928 will be held at Coventry Cathedral in June 2005.

- Toc H now has a **London office**, which is also the base of Toc H Chances Consulting. The address is Top Floor Front, 29-31 Saffron Hill, Clerkenwell, London, EC1N 8SW. For further details please contact Central Services.



Far left: Pam Elliott, a member of the National Management Committee, makes a point, while left, Ken Prideaux-Brun, a former Director of Toc H and Derek Ridgway of the Birmingham Outward Group, chat during a break at the AGM. Right: Three Toc H members enjoy a photocall



News in Brief

A gift of comfort

Buckingham branch members have presented their local hospital with three new beds after fundraising efforts which included books and clothes sales.

The specialised beds, which cost £1,200 each, can be moved electronically. Buckingham Hospital ward manager Marie Webster said: "They are just wonderful, not only because they save our staff from having to manually move them, but they offer greater comfort for our patients."

Fun in any language

There was an international feel to a summer playscheme in Bradford, organised by Toc H and the Muslim Council for Mosques.

Volunteers from Russia, Poland and Belgium worked alongside UK volunteers to entertain a total of 50 children from the city's Horton Grange area.

Toc H Operations Director John Dunwell said: "This project has proved really popular with young people from across Europe, coming together to meet and make friends through community action."

819 years of Toc H...

Members of Ripon and District branch totalled 819 years' association with Toc H, it was discovered at a meeting in York. Those present enjoyed discussing participation as activists, as ambassadors, and as champions. They welcomed the appointment of the county co-ordinators, and heard more about the new Talbot Centres and the work they could do in development terms. Bob Wise from the Harrogate branch closed the meeting with a prayer by the recently deceased Alan Johnson, and light was taken with the lighting of four lamps, including the Plumer Lamp from York Minster.

As an international organisation Toc H has many global projects. Here we report on work in Bangladesh and an inspiring sculpture initiative in Scotland. On the opposite page there are details of the launch of Toc H Cymru, and on Page 8 a follow-up report on a visit to Bulgaria.

In **Bangladesh** Toc H supports the Khasdobir Youth Action Group which provides educational, medical and financial help to a poor community.

A truly great experience

'A truly great experience' is how Toc H member Kathleen Jackson describes a visit to the Bangladeshi town of Sylhet - an experience which highlights in the starkest terms the chasm which exists between the world's rich and poor peoples.

Kathleen says: "There are no welfare benefits of any kind in Bangladesh, so the goodwill of friends and neighbours, who are often in difficulty themselves, is often the only means of help."

Kathleen was visiting the Khasdobir Youth Action Group (KYAG), a project begun in 1984 to demonstrate that poverty and deprivation do not recognise barriers

of culture and religion. Khasdobir is a village about three miles from Sylhet.

Open-air schools have been set up, using the skills of local young men and women who are literate enough to teach basic reading, writing and numbers to children of impoverished families.

- **King's Norton and Northfield branch attracted 34 people for its annual lunch to support the work of the Khasdobir Youth Action Group. It was the 11th lunch, the first being in August 1993 when £27.50p was raised, compared with £400 this year.**

Wonderful week and surprising art

It's surprising what works of art you can make with paper towels, a few pieces of wire and a dab of wallpaper paste - and that's just what a Toc H project in Glasgow has been finding out.

Art tutor Jennifer Stevenson has been working alongside Toc H

volunteers to run an arts project for adults - aged from 18 to 90 - at Strathclyde University.

Twelve people from four centres for

adults with learning difficulties in the city attended the course which involved creating people and

animals from such everyday material as a roll of kitchen towel. Ten volunteers involved in the project came from all parts of the UK, and also Poland and Belgium.



Jennifer said: "To make something like this, something you've made yourself and which you can hold, is very uplifting."

Assembly welcome for Toc H Cymru

Toc H Cymru was officially launched in October at a prestigious event at the Welsh Assembly in Cardiff. Politicians and key figures in the business community were among guests at an event which brought Toc H Cymru right to the heart of Welsh government and decision-making.

Toc H Chief Executive Geoff Smith said: "The devolution agenda is a powerful one and when a nation has such aspirations as Wales does, it is appropriate for a charity such as Toc H to respond with a recognition that its own development should take its lead from that."

"We are responding to devolution by making sure decisions about raising and spending money, and the governance of Toc H, happens closer to the local community. We will be setting up a national committee for Wales and will be exploring the possibility of Toc H Cymru becoming an exclusively Welsh charity in the future.

"We have a number of assets, both financial and historic in Wales and we will ensure that property and money is ring-fenced for the benefit of Wales. We are committed to investing in Wales through partnerships, people and projects, building better communities through volunteering, community action, and with Talbot

Centres promoting rest, recreation and regeneration."

Host of the launch was David Melding, Assembly Member for South Wales Central and chair of the Health and Social Services Committee. He said: "I am very pleased to sponsor the launch of Toc H here in Wales as an organisation whose principles I have supported for a long time.

"Toc H is about building a fairer society by working with communities to promote friendship and service, confront prejudice and practise reconciliation. These are admirable values which we can all aspire to in order to enhance our local communities."

Library service booked for success

Toc H Cymru has taken over a 23-outlet library service, previously run by St John Ambulance - along with the 80 volunteers who operate it.

Like Toc H, the library service had its beginnings in the First World War, providing books for patients in hospital overseas. Not only was reading therapeutic for the patients, but the volunteers who ran the libraries provided essential contact for people who didn't have other visitors.

Jo Eaton, Toc H Cymru Director, said: "We already have plans to extend the service to provide videos, CDs and talking books. We are also hoping to involve schoolchildren."

The library outlets are based at general and community hospitals and mental-health units throughout Wales, and 20 of the 80 volunteers have special needs.

Jo said: "It is an exciting project both for library users and volunteers and we are sure it will go from strength to strength. Part of our future planning is to extend it into a 'befriending service' for the community."



Just the ticket: Lyn Gibson gets a rest and a book on the trolley, with Sue Essex to the left, Julie Morgan MP, at the back, and right Audrey Rodenick, head volunteer at Llandough Hospital Cardiff. Back row, library service volunteers celebrate with balloons.

Archbishop is Toc H Cymru president

The Archbishop of Wales, the Most Rev Dr Barry Morgan, has accepted an invitation to become President of Toc H Cymru.

Dr Morgan was chosen as Archbishop by the electoral college of the Church of Wales in April to succeed Dr Rowan

Williams, who left the post last December to become Archbishop of Canterbury. Dr Williams is, of course, a patron of Toc H nationally. He told Point 3: "I am aware of the help and support offered by Toc H and I welcome the caring work the members of Toc H Cymru will be engaged in."

Seaside, stories, and lots of fresh air out of doors

Days at the seaside, art and craft workshops and story-telling sessions are being held as part of a new Toc H initiative in Croydon.

The project, funded for three years, aims to offer Croydon communities a range of leisure activities and events.

All the leisure activities in the summer were held outdoors as there is no permanent base for the group. A Hallowe'en party was held, and a Christmas party – also to be held outside – is being organised.

Charmaine Odusina, who is managing the events, said: "We had an excellent start to the project with more than 150 people attending the various days. We hope this will continue for the coming months with more activities planned for Hallowe'en and Christmas."

Charmaine has the help of two project leaders and a young persons support and development worker.

Recent developments for the project include a new-purpose built centre, currently in the planning stage, but expected to be completed next summer.

Party time

Lea Valley branch held a "Pensioners Playtime" with a Mardi Gras party theme at the local youth club, and a Christmas party for adults with special needs.

Bradford Centre

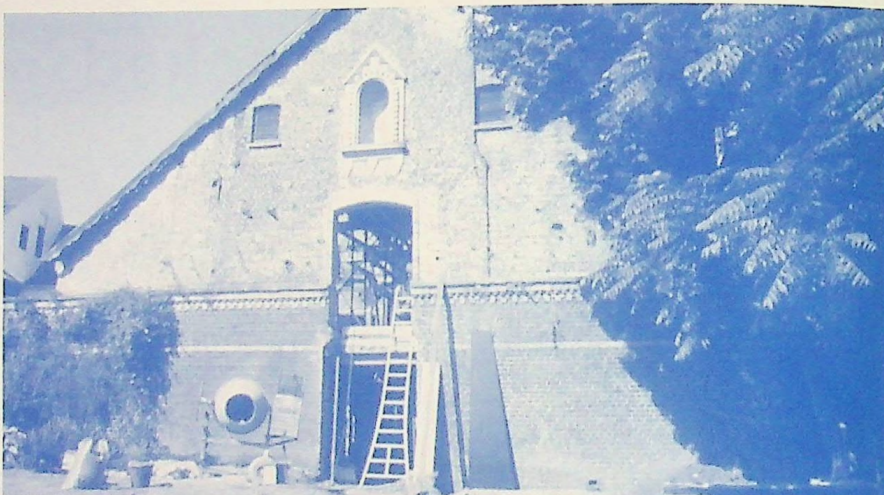
The keys to the new Talbot Centre in Bradford, West Yorkshire, have been officially handed over. Operations Director John Dunwell said: "It will be a thriving hive of local activity where we will continue to develop Toc H's activities within the community."

Several other organisations, including a dance and drama group and the area's Sure Start education programme, will also use the building.

More details in the next Point 3.



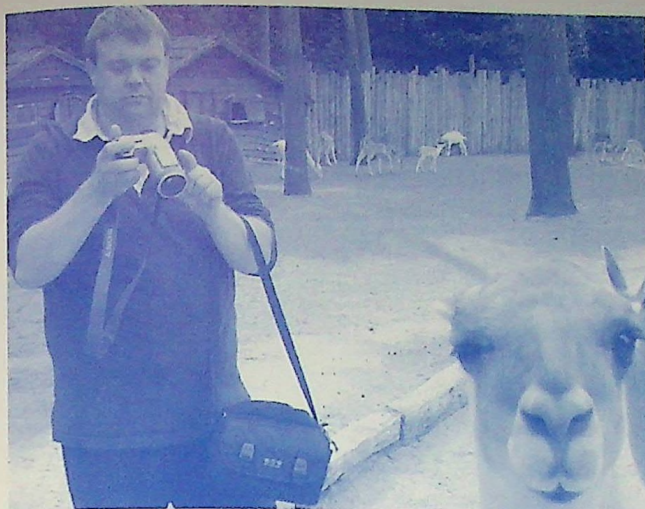
All the fun of the fair: A thrilling time during the Toc H youth group trip to Poperinge - above and below



Future perfect: Restoration work is underway at Poperinge – full report in February's Point 3



Devon cream: Volunteers, including Michael Stone and Jenny Cuthbertson, at beautiful Beckie Falls



Snap happy: Toc H members who take so many pictures are captured on film themselves just for once. Left, Steve Smith of the Lea Valley branch concentrates on his camera – and a llama steals the show. Right, Chris Stoneham, London East, gets in the frame

Happy times

There are so many Toc H activities throughout the year that Point 3 frequently runs out of space to describe them all. But they are such happy events and they bring pleasure to so many that we thought we'd try to give you a flavour of some of them in a round-up of pictures, thanks to Steve Smith and Chris Stoneham, two of the movement's most faithful photographers.



Smiles miles wide: Children from the East London centre enjoy a day out

Sunshine and showers: Enjoying a soaking at the Somali camp



Picture that: Getting a good shot on a day out



Memories: Visiting Poperinge are left to right, back row: Dannie Woodward, Romana Karim, Clare Beamond, Morven Campbell, Scott Rosborough; front row: Nia Woodward, Aaron Currington, Laura Simms, Laurieanne Collins, Penny Collins



Breaking down barriers brick by brick

Knocking down a brick wall might sound fun. But it was a tough job for Toc H volunteers who spent 10 days in Bulgaria helping with a school rebuilding project.

The wall - which had to come down to restore the school's former gymnasium - was made up of 2,000 bricks. "And," said joint project leader Derek Ridgway, "as Bulgaria is a poor country and they want to re-use as much material as they can, we cleaned all 2,000 bricks for future use.

"In the meantime other people were stripping paintwork from doors and removing some horrid whitewash from the walls. We rubbed down all the walls and window frames and painted the frames white and the doors bright blue. It certainly looked much better and brighter. When the wall was removed we prepared the floor area ready for the installation with a sprung surface by a local trader.

"Things don't happen very quickly in Bulgaria, but we will get feedback from other groups who will be going to help in the future."

A 12-strong Toc H taskforce went to Dragodanovo School, Silven, which is about four hours by road from Sofia. The school, which is attended by about 100 young offenders and children at risk, aged between seven and 16, was extremely run down.

Toc H became involved when Walsall



Flashback: The Toc H group works on the gymnasium wall. Dump the existing caption.

branch member Derek attended a talk about the project 'Bulgarian Aid' in his home town of Walsall in the West Midlands. "It seemed a good idea at the time," said Derek. "I thought this was something we could focus a project on. We tackled the wall, which had been built right across the former sports hall, because we wanted to be involved in a specific project and, to be honest, the results have been brilliant.

"One of the major benefits of the project was the interaction with the children, and the friendships that were made within the volunteer group. An essential part of Toc H work is to bring together people of different backgrounds and abilities who would otherwise never have met, in order to break down barriers. This was certainly achieved with this project."

On his return...

On his return from Bulgaria, Derek Ridgway said: "The school was in a pretty bad state, the mattresses were torn and stank of urine, and the children had to go to a communal pile each morning to find clothes to put on. You can't see any hope for these kids because, when they leave here, they have to try to get a job and the unemployment rate in Bulgaria is 70 per cent."

Obituaries

Florence M Alcock
Wallasey

Marjorie Berry
Penn (W)

Kenneth Griffiths
East of England

Norman George Griffiths
Bala (M)

Muriel Hammond
Ashby de la Zouch (W)

Isaac A Hunt
South East

Florence S Isaac
East of England

Hugh F Knightley
Nottingham City

Jose Mellhuish-Jones
Elmstead

Lewis Morris
South East

Frank R Needs
Avon District Branch

O P Newman
High Brooms

Freda E Parker
Rushden (W)

Grace K Parsons
Wakefield

James B Scott
Leominster

Harry Victor Sinclair
East of England

Frank Trembl
Kennington

Donald A Wilsden
Burraton

Website spreads mentoring message - that's official

News of the Lottery Community Fund grant to help Toc H set up and run the Cheshire Mentoring Project - reported in the September edition of Point 3 - is now featured on the Lottery's official website.

The £300,000 grant will help vulnerable youngsters aged 16-20 by pairing them with older partners who can help them deal with their problems.

The scheme has been devised with the support of Cheshire County Council's Social Services department, though it isn't intended to replace the traditional role of the social worker.

Toc H inTOuCH Director, Jenny Banks, says: "Having an older friend to help map a way forward can be vital to many young people. From working closely with young people, we recognised that what was often missing was a friend who could help them through a crisis in their lives. It brings in a support network that some people just don't have through parents or a family network."

The website address is
[http://www.national-lottery.co.uk/
player/p/goodcauses/search/search.do](http://www.national-lottery.co.uk/player/p/goodcauses/search/search.do)

Cheshire project 'inspirational'

UNISON, Britain's biggest trade union with almost 1.3 million members in the public services, has described Toc H's work in friendship and mentoring as 'inspirational', and in particular the Cheshire Monitoring Project which works with vulnerable youngsters.

It has told its members how fulfilling Toc H's work is in helping young people gain self-esteem in situations where they can support one another.



Irene's teatime is such a gas!

Free tea and coffee were on offer at Toc H's Claytonfield Campsite at Adlington, Cheshire, at an open day. And the Warden of the Campsite, Irene Power, used gas to fuel the whole event.

Claytonfield's two chalets have old-fashioned gas lighting, which is appropriate, since the open day was held to mark the 80th anniversary of Toc H's Stockport branch. The campsite itself celebrates its 80th birthday next year.

Irene is hoping that local people can be encouraged to use the facilities there in the future. She says: "Our

two chalets, one of which sleeps 16 people, are ideal for clubs and associations to use for days out or weekends away. We also have three and a half acres of open space, some of it a meadow with long grass, and some of it mown."

"Over the years many people have visited Claytonfields, and I would like more groups to stay with us and enjoy the delights of the area. The Middlewood Way bridle path runs along the edge of the campsite, and it is ideal for cycling, walking and horse riding. The canal is also nearby, for those who would like a trip on a narrowboat."

Carers' break is such a holiday

Toc H provided the respite for six carers who enjoyed a holiday at the Lindridge House Talbot Centre near Newton Abbot, Devon, this summer. Carers support worker Sue Coggins said: "This break has been offered to us by Toc H for several years and is always very much appreciated by the people who take up the chance to get away for a few days. Our thanks go to Toc H and Daphne Dawes in particular for all the time and effort."

New members

Australian Nicole Conti who lives in the Toc H house in Moseley, Birmingham, is one of the latest new members. Nicole, who comes from Sydney, said: "It seemed a natural progression from the community work we do here to becoming a member." Nicole will soon be back in Australia – on honeymoon. But she and her new English husband, Adrian, will settle in the UK, and the Toc H involvement will continue.

Another new member is 82-year-old Arthur John Leppard of Bournemouth. He fondly recalls the help, friendship and advice given to him as a boy in his native Gloucestershire by musician Arthur Davies who wrote a march for Toc H, and schoolteachers who were also involved in the movement.

Other members include:

Mary Clulow
East Midlands

Arthur John Leppard
South West

David Kennedy
Yorkshire & Humber

Nicole Bridget Conti
West Midlands

Margaret Whiting
South West

Karel Platteau
South East

Guillaume Platteau
South East

Margaret Elizabeth Ballantyne
London

Jean Russell
East of England

Maureen Shaw
East of England

Melvyn Hudson
East Midlands

Jean Doherty
North West

Linda Jordan
East of England

Mabel Edith Rowbury
South West

M Wyles
East Midlands

Barbara Horsley
East Midlands

Bridgette Cowley
West Midlands

John Anderson
Yorkshire & Humber

Radical method moves

In 1974 I became Vicar of St. John the Baptist Church, Little Hulton in Salford, Greater Manchester. At the service when I was installed into what was my first incumbency as a young man – I was still in my twenties – the Archdeacon of Bolton preached a sermon describing me as having a reputation as a radical.

He defined a radical as someone who gets to the roots of things, who digs back to founding principles and original inspiration, in order to move forward on a firm foundation.

I have always valued both the recognition of my natural instinct to be radical but also the setting of that instinct in its proper context.

As you might imagine, I have received some critical correspondence over the past three years, expressing the view that Toc H was no longer the organisation which the writer had joined.

There is truth in this and it is right that it should be the case. Staying still was never an option.

But I believe that we have gone back to the roots of Toc H, to founding principles, re-discovering as we have done so an organisation which itself was radical in its time.

During the move from Wendover to Whitchurch it was necessary to review and catalogue all the archive material. We made a number of significant discoveries, not least the first visitors' book from Talbot House dated 1915 and containing the names of those who visited Poperinge in the earliest days of Toc H.

There was something profound and extremely rewarding in bringing some of this historic material to light. The address book has since been returned to Talbot House where it most properly belongs.

Another document which came to light recently was eponymously entitled the

'Toc H Endowment Appeal'. This appeal, whose patron was HRH The Prince of Wales – thereby making Toc H the first prince's trust – was in the sum of £250,000. This was enough to generate an annual income of £10,000 'which it estimated to provide the salaries and expenses of an additional twenty men for work at home and overseas'.

Inflation has put paid to such a calculation. If we were to launch an appeal for 20 new staff today we would need an income of nearer £600,000 and an endowment fund in excess of £10million.

It is also true that the document betrays its age by its use of language, and its strange habit to modern ears of implying that



there is only one gender, thereby revealing a rather paternalistic world view.

The clear and understandable concept of practical and voluntary service is curiously referred to as 'stretcher bearing' and 'sheep dog'. As we might say today, you don't want to know!

But there is at the root of this document a very strong and clear resonance with the organisation we are now building, an organisation to break down barriers. It is an organisation with a similar capability, with similar needs, and with the same values.

Toc H forward

The 1928 endowment appeal was seeking to find the wherewithal to provide 'organising staff at home'. Staff whose role was to supervise the voluntary service of Toc H members because: 'Without such supervision well-meant efforts may be misdirected or discouraged through lack of guidance'. Here in 1928 is very clear evidence of the recognised need for a regional framework based on staff offering guidance, support and supervision of Toc H activity.

Overseas development is a second priority for the 1928 endowment appeal and we see the continuing significance of overseas work not only in the support we gave but also the encouragement we receive from Toc H

Dinner with friends

The theme of reconciliation and peace is strikingly illustrated in the picture on the left of the east window of St Ethelburga's Church in the City of London.

The church, badly damaged by an IRA bomb, has been lovingly restored and recently friends from organizations connected with Toc H attended a dinner there.

The window incorporates fragments from the earlier one, dating from 1878 and designed by Kempe. It depicts St Ethelburga, who has gathered up the pieces, and bears the text (from Psalm 122) 'O Pray for the peace of Jerusalem'.

members and volunteers in other countries. The focus of concern in 1928 was emigration, and it is significant that in 2003 we are developing work with those who come to this country as immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees.

The third priority is 'the provision of a steadily increasing number of Toc H houses' - the role of these houses is to try out and demonstrate Toc H ideas. A 'Mother-House' within easy reach of



every branch and group' would provide what might be called 'laboratories for radical action'. This third arm of the appeal finds a direct parallel in the new generation of TalbotCentres which will serve a similar purpose, their activity inspiring a new Toc H membership with local activity offering service within local communities.

The fourth part of the appeal is 'Grants in Aid'. Here the language is of experimentation, novelty, new methods of dealing with problems of social service, and recognising that all this takes money and that Toc H may well need to fund these experiments out of its own resources.

The appeal recognises that Toc H members undertake service in a voluntary capacity often at a cost to themselves, and that this appeal must go beyond the Toc H membership to the wider community. Our contemporary way of expressing this is that Toc H brings volunteering strength to local communities - but the sense is the same.

As we begin to look forward to our 90th birthday celebration in Coventry in 2005, we can do so with some confidence that Toc H activity in the 21st Century is based not only on abiding values, but that our methods, having been radically reviewed, would be recognised by those elder brethren who launched their endowment appeal 75 years ago.

Geoffrey Smith
Chief Executive

World Chain of Light begins in India

This year's World Chain of Light will begin this month - December - in Kerala in the southern-most state of India, hosted by the Cochin branch.

The ceremony will be attended by Chief Executive Geoff Smith and Toc H India Commissioner Mr K Varghese, who is also the Cochin branch treasurer.

Toc H India began in the 1920s with its first branches in Madras and Bombay. The Cochin branch was started in 1972.

Dr Alex Mathew, branch president, said: "Cochin city is popularly known as the 'Queen of the Arabian Sea' and is an industrial city with easy access by road, rail, sea and air. It is the southern headquarters of the Indian Navy and has several higher education institutions, including the Toc H Institute of Science and Technology.

Toc H India started a school in 1972 in hired premises, with two teachers - a school which was the forerunner to the prestigious Toc H Institute of Science and Technology, which now occupies a 28-acre site with 1,800 students and more than 110 staff.

With children in mind

The relevance of Remembrance Day to schoolchildren was the focus of three Toc H Services of Light on 11 November, at the Cathedral Church of All Saints, Wakefield; the Cathedral Church of St Peter in Exeter; and St Ethelburga's Church and Centre for Reconciliation and Peace in Bishopsgate, London.

Toc H Operations Director John Dunwell said: "We believe the content of the service has special relevance for schools, linking to history, religious education and citizenship elements of the National Curriculum, as well as being of interest to schools studying themes and issues surrounding Remembrance. There were notes available to back up study afterwards."

Life, Toc H, the universe and all that stuff!

The Archdeacon of Craven, the Venerable Malcolm Leslie Grundy has retired from the National Management Committee of Toc H. Point 3 invited him to reflect on his association with Toc H.

How did you come to join Toc H and when?

I first became involved with Toc H in 1966 when I went to Boston in the USA as a Winant/Clayton volunteer. My recent involvement has been through membership of the National Management Committee for two years.

What would you regard as the main landmarks in your time with Toc H?

The restructuring of Toc H has been a terrific achievement. It is now repositioned as a major national and international charity.

What about the day job? How has your position as Archdeacon fitted

in with your Toc H role?

Alongside my day job as Archdeacon of Craven, I have helped to support and advise a number of organisations and national charities. Toc H and its reorganisation came squarely within my concerns and interests.

What would you say to encourage others to support Toc H?

That it is a growing organisation which is very open to new ideas and initiatives.

What are your interests outside your occupation and Toc H?

I have an MGB Roadster. Before that I have owned three P6 Rover 2000 cars and enjoyed repairing and maintaining them.

What are your main hopes for the



future of Toc H?

That it continues to develop in areas of community service, consultancy and the education and training of young adults.

Given your time with Toc H again, is there anything you would do differently?

I might have tried to ensure that the changes were better understood at local level.

Our 'Ground Force' crew get to work

Toc H volunteers have been helping to revitalise a landmark piece of land on one of the busiest roads in Bradford, West Yorkshire, so that it can return to its original use as a garden.

They worked together with community-action group Manningham Means Business, a group set up as part of a city healing process following riots in Bradford.

The area - in Blenheim Mount, Manningham, which is passed by

thousands of commuters every day - had become overgrown and strewn with rubbish. Toc H, which has recently established a northern office in Bradford's West Bowling area, helped to clear and improve the site.

John Dunwell, Toc H volunteer projects director, said: "Toc H was founded to help young soldiers in need of a haven in the First World War. It's very appropriate that we are taking part in a drive to improve an area which will provide a place to sit

and enjoy a garden, particularly alongside such a busy main road."

Councillor Anne Hawkesworth, Executive Member for the Environment on Bradford Council, said: "I am pleased that the council is able to work with Toc H and Manningham Means Business on this garden project. This type of partnership, working with the support of local residents, is a good way forward if we are to continue to improve the appearance of the district."

Read all about it in your next Point 3, February 2004...

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev Rowan Williams, has agreed to launch the new national Toc H mentoring scheme at Lambeth Palace in January

Stewards required for Toc H's 90th anniversary commemorative service at Coventry Cathedral on June 25th 2005. Interested volunteers can apply to Central Services now; further details will be published in the next Point 3.

Putting names to faces: a snapshot of some of the Toc H directors

Watch out for news of Toc H activities in Birmingham, Bradford, and London